

Prince George Local Immigration Partnership

Prince George is the "Northern Capital" of BC. It is also the service and supply hub for one of the fastest-growing regions in Canada and plays an important role in BC's economy. Recently, many newcomers to BC have chosen Prince George as their new home. However, only a handful of newcomers are aware of the unique opportunities Prince George has to offer. Working with community partners and stakeholders, the goal of Prince George Local Immigrant Partnership (PGLIP) is to help newcomers fulfil their dreams and succeed by easily accessing the resources and services they need. The PGLIP initiative intends to create a more welcoming and inclusive community for immigrants and newcomers.

Why the Local Immigration Partnership (LIP)?

The LIP is aimed at supporting the integration of newcomers by fostering welcoming and inclusive spaces, organizations, businesses, and communities through collective actions. The LIP is established and funded by the Government of Canada and can be found throughout BC and indeed across Canada. The LIP does not deliver direct service to newcomers. Instead LIP's roles are:

- To educate
- To inform and facilitate
- To engage
- To communicate
- To influence and advocate

What is the goal of Prince George Local Immigration Partnership (PGLIP)?

Established in 2014, the goal of PGLIP is to make Prince George a more welcoming and inclusive city. The PGLIP has partnership council members which comprised of individuals from various organizations within the community to form an in-depth and comprehensive understanding of the newcomers' experiences and set a strong foundation for continued actions.

Opportunities the PGLIP present

- Provide good networking opportunities with other stakeholders in the community
- Identify ways in which newcomers can be supported within the community
- Increase awareness of and opportunities related to meaningful employment of immigrants
- Engage all levels of government in a partnership to achieve more comprehensive planning on immigration and settlement
- Improve focus: Stakeholders and partners work toward common goals
- Induce municipalities and communities to play a larger role in planning for and guiding immigration and settlement

- Utilize the tremendous amount of tacit knowledge and expertise available at the local level to enhance planning and to arrive at solutions attuned to local needs and capacities
- Improve community consultation and buy-in: Involvement of immigrants and members of the host community in identifying needs, gaps, and strengths of the community, as well as possible solutions
- Facilitate the sharing of knowledge and information

Opportunities for Employers

- Retention and loyalty higher with newcomers
- Newcomers bring additional skills that benefit employers
- Employers gain a global perspective
- Opportunity to find international student employees and know them for 1-2 years before hiring permanently
- Promote expansion of customer base, as services can be provided in a number of languages
- Different ways of looking at things
- Gain international business expertise
- Work ethic

Members Time Commitment

The PGLIP Partnership Council members meet 1 ½ hours (10am-11.30am) in the first Tuesday of each month. Members who are in various Working Groups meet once quarterly. Working group members can meet via a teleconference meeting depending on the schedule and convenience of members. The monthly meeting and Working Group meeting will both be facilitated by the LIP liaison.

